

Amendment to the Specification:

Delete paragraph [0001].

Replace paragraph [000107] with the following amended paragraph:

[000107] After clearing and settlement, card association 34 issues transaction statements as represented by block 202 of account reconciliation processor 200 in FIG. 10. The card association generated transaction statement includes a summary of the funds to be paid as part of the clearing and settlement process for transactions occurring on the processing date or dates. Each card association may have unique format and content for their own statement. For example, Visa issues a VisaNet Settlement Service (VSS) Statement and MasterCard issues an ~~xxx~~ international networking (INET) Statement. The transaction statement is compiled by card association 34 and will include, for each processing date, a summary or aggregation of the funding due to each acquiring bank and the funding due to each merchant associated with the respective acquiring bank.